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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Border Patrol Checkpoint seizes Garden variety of Narcotics San Diego Sector Apprehensions Decrease from Last Year

Temecula, CA: Checkpoint operations evolved from immediate border enforcement (line-watch). Their strategic importance lies in their placement at various routes of egress from the immediate border, thus enabling the Border Patrol to provide a depth of border security throughout San Diego County. The primary purpose of a Border Patrol checkpoint is to apprehend illegal entrants who have managed to evade apprehension at the immediate border, as they proceed to interior locations. However, in the course of checkpoint operations, Border Patrol agents often encounter violators of other state and federal laws. Despite the decrease in apprehensions since Operation Gatekeeper, the Temecula Checkpoint continues to provide vital support of border security to the interior of the United States. Additionally, the Temecula Station accounts for a significant number of the total seizures in San Diego Sector. During the month of July, the Temecula Border Patrol Checkpoint seized various types of controlled substances and paraphernalia. They included marijuana, ecstasy, hashish, methamphetamines, ketamine, oxy contin, nalbuphine, temgesic, steroids including clenbuterol, psycilobin mushrooms, valium, and viagra. Various paraphernalia utilized for distribution and usage of controlled substances were also seized, including pipes, digital scales, syringes and a vacuum sealer. During the course of these seizures 16 forged checks totaling \$12,045.06 and \$11,071.00 in cash were discovered. The Temecula Station also apprehended 291 illegal aliens during this time period.

Since its inception in October of 1994, Operation Gatekeeper has continually provided increased control over the 66 miles of land border patrolled in the San Diego Sector. Due to the continued efforts of Border Patrol Agents in San Diego Sector, overall apprehensions are down 15.44 percent to date from last year's totals for the same time period. This equates to 158,065 apprehensions in fiscal year 1999 through July compared to 133,654 apprehensions in the same time period of fiscal year 2000. The month of July has seen a 10 percent decrease in apprehensions over last year; (11,431 in FY1999 versus 10,290 in FY2000).

FOR ADDITIONAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION, SEE BELOW.







